Medical School Library
University of California
29 1933

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HOWARD MORROW, M.D., San Francisco, President
EDWARD M. PALLETTE, M.D., Los Angeles, Vice President
GEO. H. KRESS, M.D., Los Angeles
JUNIUS B. HARRIS, M.D., Sacramento
WM. R. P. CLARK, M.D., San Francisco
GIFFORD L. SOBEY, M.D., Paso Robles
GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Sacramento

SAN FRANCISCO
State Office Building, McAllister and Larkin Streets Underhill 8700

SACRAMENTO
State Office Building, 10th and L Streets Capital 2800

LOS ANGELES
State Office Building, 217 West First Street Madison 1271

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XII, No. 46 December 16, 1933 GUY P. JONES EDITOR

Methods in Rat Control

In many California communities at the present time, CWA funds have been made available through which the employment of emergency employees in public health departments is made possible. Many of the temporary workers are engaged in rodent control activities. For the benefit of those who are engaged in these projects a brief resume of rat control measures is published herewith.

While the rat proofing of buildings is of first importance in the permanent exclusion of rats, there are many other measures that are made necessary in the control of these rodents. These involve poisoning, trapping, removal of rat food supplies, and the destruction of harboring places. Rat proofing of buildings, in itself, constitutes a subject for separate discussion. The four measures above mentioned will be discussed only in this article.

Poisoning

Poisoning and trapping reduce the number of rats but do not eliminate them. Both are of value in ridding large rat proof structures of contained rats which, finding harbor and sustenance therein, might otherwise perpetuate themselves. Poisoning is of great value in the destruction of rats on roofs and in localities such as freight and storage depots, freight yards, garbage dumps, and water fronts. One of the chief dangers in the use of poisons lies in the fact that many of them are injurious to domestic animals and to children. Phosphorous and arsenic are often used for the destruction of rats.

Red squill has come into great favor recently for this purpose and it has the decided advantage in that it is not harmful to domestic animals nor to children. Squill is a perennial bulb that grows wild along the coast of the Mediterranean. The bulbs are generally gathered during the dormant period in summer and early fall and are made into a dry powder which is mixed with foods for rat bait. The United States Department of Agriculture says that rats usually take red squill readily and that it approaches the unique position of being a poison specific to rats. The poison has an acrid taste which is objectionable to most animals and it generally acts as an emetic when taken in quantities. A variety of three or more kinds of baits greatly increases the chances for a thorough cleanup of rats on any premises. Separate baits from three of the following classes should be prepared carefully, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

Fish

Fresh fish ground in a meat chopper is one of the most attractive baits for rats. If fresh fish is not available, a cheap grade of canned salmon, canned mackerel, or sardines in oil may be used. Mix one ounce of powdered red squill with a little water to form a thin paste free of lumps, add to one pound of fish, and mix thoroughly.

Meat

Mix one ounce of powdered red squill with a little water to form a thin paste free of lumps, add to one pound of fresh ground meat, and mix thoroughly. Hamburg steak is most commonly used.

Cereals

Mix together, dry, one ounce of powdered red squill to one pound of cereal meal, such as oatmeal, graham flour, corn meal, or bran. Add one pint of sweet milk or water and stir to a mushy consistency.

Fruits and Vegetables

Using a pepper shaker, dust powdered red squill over thin slices of fresh fruit or vegetables and stir or shake as the powder is applied to insure even distribution. A small musk-melon, for example, should be cut into about sixteen slices and each slice cut into three sections. This will require an ounce of powdered squill and will make forty-eight baits. Three medium sized tomatoes or three bananas each cut into about sixteen sections may be similarly used for each ounce of squill powder.

Liquid red squill should be used only with a dry bait capable of absorbing about double its weight of liquid. Cut one-half pound of stale bread into half-inch cubes, place in a clean dish, and pour one pint of liquid red squill over them and mix gently with a spoon. Use several cubes for each rat bait.

Trapping

Snap traps, because of their small size and adaptability, will be found most satisfactory for general use. They should be obtained with strong hardwood bases, all springs and wires being securely fastened to this base. The efficiency of such traps is increased when provided with a double-acting trigger release, with hooks for attaching bait. They should be placed where they will interrupt the runways of rats—under floors, above ceilings, within walls, and on girders, cross beams, ledges, etc. They should be securely anchored with a small piece of twine. Smoking is not essential.

Cage traps are of especial value in sewers, but may be employed in any position affording sufficient room. They may be covered with loose sacking or other material or left bare. Such traps should be about twenty inches long, with underbraces wired and the release pedal ledged. Mice can pass between the wires of cage rat traps, so that these traps when set may serve to supply mice with food. Cage-trapped rats should be chloroformed.

Removal of Rat Food

By rat food is meant waste food or food refuse, such as is thrown carelessly on vacant lots, or around garbage cans, or into imperfect garbage cans, or surplus food thrown to chickens or dropped in transportation or handling.

The imperfect garbage can represents the most important source of rat food outside the building, and its contents provide amply for rat sustenance. Aside from other sanitary objections the elimination of the rat can not be accomplished until the imperfect garbage can has been replaced. The installation of a perfect garbage can is a civic necessity—a debt due the community by every householder, and this debt should be promptly paid.

Chicken yards offer a convenient source of rat food and should be rat proofed or abandoned. Rat proofing may be accomplished by constructing a coop or inclosure with an area wall as described for frame structures, the ground area being covered with three inches of concrete and the side walls above the foundation constructed of wire cloth not less than twenty gauge nor greater than ½-inch mesh. This should extend upward at least six feet. The door provided should be rat proof and remain closed when not in use. Chickens may range in the open yard, but should be fed only within the rat proof coop.

Removal of Rat Harbors

The removal of rubbish, dilapidated out buildings, trash, and similar material, is of importance in rat control. Rats are found commonly in such harboring places, and their removal constitutes an important factor. Wooden floors whether covering sidewalks or passage areas, if lying in close proximity to the ground, offer a most convenient harboring place for rats. Such wooden floors should be removed and the ground area left bare or covered with gravel or cement.

"Parent-teacher associations have in the past stood between children and starvation in providing a hot luncheon at school. The coming winter months will challenge us to take care of more children, either in schools or in homes. We can not teach lessons or make good citizens out of hungry children. We are therefore urging our workers to study means of providing school children with the best nourishment at the least cost. Parent-teacher leaders should approach this problem under intelligent guidance from nutrition specialists."—Mrs. Hugh Bradford, President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The art of nursing is the gift of God.

HIGHWAY FOOD SUPPLY INSPECTIONS

Many food supply places situated along State highways were made during November. Special attention was given to water supplies, sewage disposal, sterilization of glassware, and proper storage of foods. The following places were inspected during November:

Redwood Highway, Sausalito to Novato.

Food supply places inspected 9. Conditions satisfactory 4. Minor defects 5.

Reinspected 20. Conditions satisfactory 11. Minor defects 4. Insanitary conditions 1. Vacated 4.

Service stations inspected 3. Conditions satisfactory 3.

Reinspected 10. Conditions satisfactory 8. Minor defects 1. Vacated 1.

Highway No. 99, Sacramento to San Joaquin County Line.

Food supply places inspected 18. Conditions satisfactory 12. Minor defects 5. Insanitary conditions 1.

Carmichael Road, Sacramento to Fair Oaks.

Food supply places inspected 11. Conditions satisfactory 8. Minor defects 2. Insanitary conditions 1.

Service stations inspected 3. Conditions satisfactory 2. Minor defects 1.

Highway No. 40, Sacramento to Placer County Line.

Food supply places inspected 15. Conditions satisfactory 9. Minor defects 4. Insanitary conditions 2.

Service stations inspected 8. Conditions satisfactory 5. Minor defects 3.

Highway No. 50, Sacramento to El Dorado County Line.

Food supply places inspected 17. Conditions satisfactory 10. Minor defects 5. Insanitary conditions 2.

Service stations inspected 5. Conditions satisfactory 3. Minor defects 1. Insanitary conditions 1.

Highway No. 40, Sacramento County Line to Auburn.

Food supply places reinspected 14. Conditions satisfactory 11. Minor defects 2. Insanitary conditions 1.

Yuba Pass Highway, Placer County Line to Grass Valley.

Food supply places inspected 8. Conditions satisfactory 5. Minor defects 2. Insanitary conditions 1.

Highway No. 40, Sacramento to Dixon.

Food supply places inspected 12. Conditions satisfactory 7. Minor defects 3. Insanitary conditions 2.

Miscellaneous food supply places situated along various highways inspected 32. Conditions satisfactory 15. Minor defects 14. Insanitary conditions 3.

Total food supply places on highways inspected	122
Conditions satisfactory	70
Improvements needed	52
Reinspected	33
Improvements made	25
Improvements not completed	6
No improvements made	2

ELIMINATION OF TUBERCULOUS CATTLE

A special committee of the Health Officers Section of the League of California Municipalities—composed of Dr. John J. Sippy, Stockton, Chairman; Dr. A. Hieronymus, Oakland, and Dr. Herbert F. True, Sacramento—has taken action to commend the Federal plan for the elimination of tuberculous cattle.

Following is the text of the resolution:

WHEREAS, Bovine tuberculosis is recognized as a menace to human health; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has the largest number of tuberculous animals in its dairy herds; and

WHEREAS, The State through its activity in control and eradication work since 1898 has been unable to successfully combat this disease because of insufficient money; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture through broad powers vested in him by the Agricultural Adjustment Act, can and is working on the elimination of surpluses of farm commodities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this committee officially representing the Health Officers Section of the League of California Municipalities urge the said Secretary of Agriculture to adopt means whereby the dairy surplus of this and other States be eliminated through the testing and slaughtering of diseased animals, thereby relieving the economic situation and protecting our citizens from the menace of products from diseased animals.

COMMITTEE, HEALTH OFFICERS SECTION
OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA MUNICIPALITIES.

By JOHN J. SIPPY, M.D., Chaiman,
A. HIERONYMUS, M.D.,
HERBERT F. TRUE, M.D.

GLENDALE REQUIRES PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD HANDLERS

In a recent issue of this publication, it was stated that physical examinations of food handlers are required in Pasadena and San Diego. Glendale should have been included with these cities, as a local ordinance which makes such procedure mandatory has been in force during the past three years.

Being arrived at seventy, and considering that by traveling further in the same road I should probably be led to the grave, I stopped short, turned about and walked back again; which done these four years, you may now call me sixty-six.—Benjamin Franklin.

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DISEASES REPORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA

REPORTABLE ONLY

ANTHRAX
BERIBERI
BOTULISM
COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA
DENGUE*
FLUKE INFECTION
FOOD POISONING
GLANDERS***
HOOKWORM
JAUNDICE (Infectious)
MALARIA*
PELLAGRA
PNEUMONIA (Lobar)
RELAPSING FEVER
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER
SEPTIC SORE THROAT
TETANUS
TRICHINOSIS
TULAREMIA
UNDULANT FEVER

ISOLATION OF PATIENT

CHICKENPOX**
DYSENTERY (Amoebic)
DYSENTERY (Bacillary)
ERYSIPELAS
GERMAN MEASLES**
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION
INFLUENZA
MEASLES**
MUMPS**
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
PSITTACOSIS
RABIES (Animal)**
RABIES (Human)
SYPHILIS
TRACHOMA
TUBERCULOSIS
WHOOPING COUGH**

QUARANTINABLE

CHOLERA***
DIPHTHERIA
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
LEPROSY
MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
PLAGUE***
ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
YELLOW FEVER***

---

* Patient should be kept in mosquito-free room.
** Nonimmune contacts isolated also.
*** Cases to be reported to State Department of Public Health by telephone or telegraph and special instructions will be issued.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria

42 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 21, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 2, Manteca 1, San Jose 1.

Chickenpox

432 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Alameda 13, Berkeley 17, Oakland 39, Fresno 13, Los Angeles County 17, Los Angeles 66, Lynwood 10, Sacramento 19, San Francisco 46, Stockton 37, Oxnard 18.

Measles

167 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 57, Sacramento 16, San Diego 68.

Scarlet Fever

221 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 13, Los Angeles County 13, Los Angeles 75, Tulare County 14.

Whooping Cough

278 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Berkeley 11, Oakland 39, Los Angeles County 17, Los Angeles 51, Riverside County 10, Stockton 19, Ventura County 15.

Smallpox

13 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 5, Los Angeles 3, Merced 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1.

Typhoid Fever

36 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 2, Monrovia 1, Torrance 1, Gardena 3, Calistoga 1, Grass Valley 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 11, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Maria 1, Modesto 2, Tulare County 4.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic meningitis from Los Angeles has been reported.

Poliomyelitis

7 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 2, Pomona 1, Riverside 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Anaheim 1.

Trichinosis

One case of trichinosis from San Francisco has been reported.

Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning from Los Angeles has been reported.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases of coccidioidal granuloma have been reported, as follows: Sanger 1, Bakersfield 1.

---

* From reports received on December 11th and 12th for week ending December 9th.

7329 12-33 5M

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE
HARRY HAMMOND, STATE PRINTER
SACRAMENTO, 1933

U C MEDICAL SCHOOL
LIBRARY
PARNASSUS & THIRD AVE
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF